

## Speech for County Chair

July 1, 2007

Cheshire County Democrats, chaired by Dan Eaton

My name is Doris Haddock and I live on Cobb Meadow Road in Dublin, N. H. Thank you chairman Eaton for allowing me to come this evening. I am here to tell you about Public Funding of Elections at the State Level.

I have watched politics for a long time in this state, as I was born here in Laconia, and I am now 97. I have watched as our young people have gone off to war to defend our freedoms.

*2nd WW, Korea, Vietnam Iraq*

A constant feature of our people has been their deep sense of patriotism, and I am sure that this feeling runs deep in your own instinct for public service. We inherited it from our forefathers who were inhabitants of this state when New Hampshire was one of America's first thirteen colonies.

Therefore, I do not have to waste your time in

telling you that we will resist any slipping away of our belief that all citizens have a right to be heard and to take their turn representing us as our public servants. You will resist any changes that would reserve those rights to only the rich, just as our great grandfathers and great grandmothers resisted the crown of England and its designated lords.

If we could bring back our forefathers to this room, they would, I am quite sure, warn us of the fact that the costs of running for office has changed in the past decade and it is time to remember President Eisenhower's warning of the military industrial complex, in his final speech to the country.

Senator Biden, in the recent New Hampshire Debate, spoke the most important words in the debate that was heard. He said, "the most important issue on our agenda is the public funding of our state and federal elections. It is basic and leads all other issues."

Today, as you well know elections are generally won by the candidate who has been able to receive the most money, or by a candidate who

is a multi-millionaire. So much money is spent on elections that it is almost obscene. When you think of hungry children in the world, for money to be spent by candidates, whose money comes from special interests and that those corporations whose interests are served rather than that of their constituents, you begin to wonder what can be done. You remember President Eisenhower's warning. You think that our once powerful state of N. H. is being abandoned to those corporations. ~~You think our once powerful state and our congress has gradually been abandoned to the corporations.~~

~~That our government is now become the CIA and the Pentagon, with Congress reduced to a debating society. . Jim Garrison, district attorney for New Orleans, is quoted in the book 'War of Freedom' by Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed as saying,, "don't look for a swastika because you won't find one, nor a Dachau or Auschwitz. The clever manipulation of the mass media is creating a concentration camp of our minds. You're not going to wake up one morning and dress yourself in a grey uniform and go goose-stepping off to work. That isn't what is~~



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happening. What is happening is people are beginning not to speak out loud what they are thinking." My sister who is two years younger than I decided it wasn't safe to live alone any more, and I asked her why do you say that? It's the terrorists, she said, I'm afraid of being raped. In Washington deceiving and manipulation of the public is viewed by some as the natural prerogative of office. Fascism will come to America in the name of National Security.

*or as our fear of Terrorists*

A young friend of mine recently gave up a high paying job in Washington, D. C. to settle in Maine, because what she had learned in the office she had worked in had led her to believe she either needed to leave or become a whistle blower.

She said she was suddenly afraid, and didn't dare to say so. She picked Maine because because they have a statewide healthcare for everyone, and the state is the first to have adopted public funding of the elections, and the truth can be found there.

A recent booklet put out by the Center for Government Studies says "Public financing of electoral campaigns is perhaps the most

important reform to emerge in the past thirty years. Public funding provides candidates for public office with money and other resources to conduct their campaign. it makes candidates *no longer* ~~less~~ dependent on large or special interest contributions, provides them with a neutral source of funding and gives them more time to discuss their issues with voters, increases opportunities for people of color, women and new candidates to enter politics and encourages candidates to limit spending."

*I belong to*  
Now ~~we have~~ a group who *is* ~~are~~ working on a bill for Public Funding of elections in N. H.. I am here to tell you about it, to explain how it works and to urge you to support it.

In 1998, I read an op-ed in the Boston Globe telling the following story: In the middle of the night two members of the House added an amendment to a bill on its way to President Clinton to be signed giving a \$150 million dollars as a subsidy to a tobacco company. I was shocked. The article had been put out by the Common Cause people, that organization we call our watch-dog, ever since Watergate. I called the office and asked about this statement saying, "This is corruption." and they said of

course, but it was caught and stopped. :I was glad to hear that, but you couldn't help wondering how many such instances had not been caught.

So I asked what an 89 year old woman, living on Social Security could do about it, and they told me to start a petition requesting that the McCain/Feingold be passed, for it was supposed to stop corporations from giving big donations to candidates who then became beholden to the giver. So I went to my Tuesday Morning Academy, a group of 20+ retired women and asked them to help with a national petition. They agreed, and two years later, having been able to spread the petition to all 50 states, we began to get cookie cutter letters back from our senators to whom all the petitions had been sent, saying we didn't need to tell them their jobs, they were indeed going to pass the McCainFeingold bill

But the next time the bill came to the floor there was a repeat of the other times, passed in the House, filibustered in the Senate. It was hopeless and it needed something more dramatic than a petition, so that's why I walked the 3, 200 miles talking about Campaign



## Finance Reform.

I have spent time the last four years going to various states that also want public funding for their state. There are 30 or more states working on it, and I have visited 22 states, some of them several years in a row.

There are two ways to accomplish public funding: with citizens' initiative or by getting a bill passed in the Senate and House. Maine and Arizona did it with the initiative, and Connecticut has recently been the first Legislature in the country to pass public funding. We do not have citizens initiative in our state of N. H. *we must follow Conn.*

But we have a bill, and a group working very hard to make it a law. Our bill is HB794. It was written by Representative Jim Splaine. It covers the Governor, the Governor's council and the senators. It does not include the 400 Representatives, but they must pass it for it to become a law. In the year 2000 The Senate passed Splaine's bill, the House did not, missing it with less than 50 votes. In 2002 Splaine's bill did not pass in either House or Senate.

The bill has been refurbished and is being read

by a committee line for line.

- *When PF has been passed anyone wanting to run for office will need to get this*  
 The problem with a bill being passed by a citizens' initiative, is the huge amount of signatures that must be obtained, before it can become a law. Once the proper amount of signatures is achieved anyone who wishes to *run* participate must collect signatures himself by going into his own district and asking for signatures together with \$5

To run for Senator, he/she must collect 450 signatures 1,000 for councilor and 7,500 for governor. Having achieved this he/she can now receive a given amount, so that a level playing field is in order for the participants.

*from the state*

New Hampshire is one of the original colonies so it seems a natural thing for her to lead. Everywhere I go to talk about clean elections they say, "What about N. H. grannyd?" Now we have a bill of our very own, and when it comes time for it to be considered I hope you will call your senator or your representative, or both to tell them you want a fair, citizen-owned election. think what a different state we would have, with office holders with no string attached except those of his constituents. No lobbyists telling



them how to vote. it will be a diffeent kind of ambience, one of truth and patriotism and freedom. My vision is that when a certain number of states have accomplished this, a critical mass will form and it will go federal as some of our best laws have done. Women's right to vote was begun in Wyoming. What a different country it would be. The rest of the world would stop hating us. We could change the world!